



MINNESOTA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTER TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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Licensing Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters have to be licensed?

A: Per the statute it is mandatory for full-time firefighters to be licensed as a condition of their employment in Minnesota. It is optional for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to be licensed; it is not required by law.

Q: I don't plan to become licensed but I still have questions about the 72 hour continuing education. Can you explain more?

A: Only licensed firefighters who wish to renew their license will need to comply with the continuing education requirement. The 72 hour continuing education requirement will be certified by the fire chief on the license renewal application.

Q: Can you explain the employment verification form on the website?

A: Every licensed firefighter must be employed by a fire department in the state; MBFTE has provided forms to be completed to verify employment:

- For individual firefighters, please print the attached [Employment Verification](#) form and have your chief complete it and return it with your license application.
- For departments, please print the attached [Roster Certification](#) form and have your chief complete it and send to MBFTE.

Q: What is the advantage for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to become licensed?

A: The decision for paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters to license is a personal decision. The Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education is required to carry out the statute which requires all full-time firefighters to be licensed. Licensing helps to establish and maintain professional standards that fire departments can use for recruitment and retention of firefighters.

Q: Do firefighters need to be licensed before they get hired for a new job?

A: A person hired as a full-time firefighter position does not have to be licensed during their probationary period, per state statute. The local fire department may require that the firefighter obtain their license during their probationary period. . Once they have successfully completed their probationary period they must be licensed in order to be a full-time firefighter. Paid-on-call, volunteer and part-time firefighters do not have to be licensed.

Q: I don't have my original certificate for IFSAC FF2; will my card work as verification?

A: No, you must provide a copy of the actual IFSAC FF2 certificate received from the Minnesota Fire Service Certification Board (MFSCB). If you can't locate your copy, please contact MSFCB at 1-866-566-0911 or at www.mfscb.org to see about getting a copy of your certificate.

Q: What if I was 'grandfathered' into Firefighter 2, but did not get licensed prior to July 1, 2011?

A: Then you must take the IFSAC FF2 certification test, offered by MFSCB, and pass it in order to be able to apply for your license. Please contact them at 1-866-566-0911 or www.mfscb.org

Q: Who pays for the firefighter license? Does the firefighter pay or the city/township pay for licensing?

A: The MBFTE statute does not distinguish who shall pay for the license. The cost of the license is \$75 for a three-year period.

Q: Will our license status affect our ability to apply or be awarded FEMA grants?

A: No, Minnesota firefighter license status will not affect anything with FEMA. The license is required for full-time firefighters, by law, as a condition of their employment.

Q: After a firefighter has been licensed for three years what requirements are necessary in order for them to renew their license?

A: They will have had to complete 72 hours of continuing education as certified by the fire chief, submit a renewal application and pay the \$75 fee.

Q: We will be hiring a new full-time fire chief and additional firefighters next year. After July 1, 2011, will we have to hire only licensed firefighters?

A: Your new chief and additional/new firefighters will have to be licensed by the time their probationary period is over. For example, if you have a six month probationary period, your new staff will have six months to get licensed in order to comply with the law.

Q: I have been told that if I became licensed during the grandfathering period I will also be IFSAC FF2 certified. Is that true?

A: No, that is not true. The only way to become IFSAC FF2 certified is with the Minnesota State Fire Certification Board. Licensing under the grandfathering period only provides a firefighter with a Minnesota Firefighter license.

The complete statute may be found at: <http://mn.gov/mbfte/aboutus/legislation/statute>